New LPG connections in Andhra Pradesh

1066. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned 15 lakh additional LPG connections in the Andhra Pradesh to be distributed among women members participating in self help groups; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to help other backward States in the same manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to release 15 lakh additional new LPG connections in the State of Andhra Pradesh under 'Deepam Scheme'. Under this scheme, State Government will be required to surrender corresponding kerosene quota per month and make the necessary security deposit against the number of connections actually released on behalf of beneficiaries. The facility of release of LPG connections against surrender of kerosene quota is available for all the States.

Introduction of ULSD

1067. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of transporters have argued in favour of introducing ULSD as it does not involve high capital cost unlike Compressed Natural Gas (CNG);

(b) whether there had been several CNG blasts recently in the capital; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Many transport organizations, namely Indian Tourist Transports Association, Delhi Contract Bus Association, DTC, DTC Private Bus Operators Welfare Association, Indian Association of Tour Operators have made representation to the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority for